

SECTION 6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Richard Grubb & Associates has performed a Phase IA (reconnaissance-level) archaeological survey for the proposed U.S. Route 301 Mainline Contract 3: Maryland/Delaware Line to North of Levels Road in St. Georges and Appoquinimink Hundreds and Town of Middletown, New Castle County, Delaware and Electoral District 1, Cecil County, Maryland. This survey consisted of background research, archaeological field reconnaissance, development of a testing strategy, and reporting.

Background research indicated that there are no registered archaeological sites within the APE. Seven prehistoric and six historic archaeological sites are located within two miles of the APE. Elsewhere in the Mid-Peninsular Drainage Divide in the High Coastal Plain of Delaware, prehistoric sites were located in similar settings to portions of the APE. Based on background research that included environmental factors, portions of the APE have a high potential for prehistoric archaeological sites, particularly during the Woodland I period of prehistory. Primary source research, including an examination of historic maps and deeds, suggests that sections of the APE, particularly the northern sections, where seventeenth through nineteenth-century farmsteads and a possible portion of Choptank Road are located, have high potential for historic archaeological resources.

As in other sections of the U.S. Route 301 project, resources that could be identified within the APE are likely related to various themes laid out in the *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* (per Siders 1993a: 8) such as that of *Disappearing Historic Landscapes; Historic Themes of Agriculture; Transportation and Communication; Settlement Patterns and Demographic Changes; Architecture, Engineering and Decorative Arts; and Major Families, Individuals and Events*. A number of research questions could be addressed if potentially significant resources are identified during the Phase IB archaeological survey.

Based on the results of the Phase IA archaeological survey, a stratified Phase IB archaeological survey is recommended. A Phase IB sampling strategy is presented in Table 5.1 (also see Appendix E) and cross-referenced to the archaeological sensitivity maps (see Attachments). No further survey is recommended for disturbed areas, or locations having a very low potential for archaeological sites.